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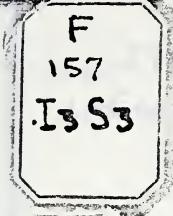






History  
of  
The Brush Valley  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Indiana County Pa.  
By  
Rev. J. Milton Snyder, Pastor  
1906





1823819

History of  
"Brush Valley" EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Indiana Co., Pa.  
by  
Rev. J. Milton Snyder, Pastor  
1901



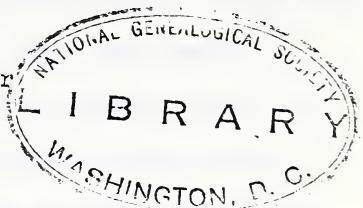
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Presented by Frances Strong Helman, Indiana, Pa.,  
whose ancestors, James & Catherine Strong, helped  
HISTORY OF THE "BRUSH VALLEY" EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH establish  
Brush Valley Township

Indiana County, Pennsylvania  
By Rev. J. Milton Snyder, Pastor

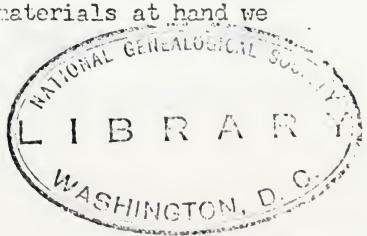
1901



Zechariah 1:5 "Your fathers, where are they? and The prophets, do They live forever?"

Death is not only solemn and sad at times, but real. It bears the young and old, the high and low, the fair and lovely, the sinner and saint away as surely as the coming and the going of the years. "The fathers where are They?" but sleeping in their quiet beds of earth; and "The prophets" and pastors, are lying in their midst. Thus, the generations come and go; and we also shall by and by, be gathered with the dead. One of the great features of The Christian's Life is, that it has to do with earth and Heaven; Man and God; The Church here and The Church There. It is a part of time: The rest embracing all eternity. The life that we live here is known to us; and partly to others: The life "hereafter" is the unknown and untried future.

Here we make a few footsteps and leave a few footprints, and the weary journey is ended. It is the Christian's part to gather up the facts and the "fragments that remain;" work them together and make them "intelligent and tangible." The Christian's task is mixed with pleasure and perplexity. It is like gathering flowers in a beautiful garden, or hunting for a rose on The Thorny Mountain. For the History of This Congregation, it has been a difficult task to gather facts: as The Church records are few and, most all local Tradition is lost in The "chaos and silence" of the past. With the meagre materials at hand we shall do the best we can.





Among the earliest Lutherans who settled in "The Wilds" of Indiana County was the family of John Conrad Rice, who removed from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania and located near the present town of Indiana in the year 1794. The home of Conrad-Rice occupies a prominent place in the history of the Lutheran Church in Indiana County; for it was under his roof that the first public worship of God by Lutherans, in this county was held. To Mr. Rice's home the Rev. John Michael Steck of Greensburg, Pennsylvania came four (4) times a year and held services for the Lutherans of the county who could attend during 1798 and 1799. Rev. Steck may also have continued a yearly visit to this county from 1800 to 1813 as I find one recorded statement to that effect. He had served Lutheran Churches in Bedford and Somerset Counties from 1789 to 1792; when in the later year he removed to Greensburg and became a missionary in the west part of Pennsylvania. Then a comparative wilderness. Rev. Steck died at his home in Greensburg, Westmoreland County, July 14th 1830, in his 65th year. I added a short sketch of his life in Appendix "A".

The first regular Lutheran pastor who located in this county (Indiana), was The Rev. John Gottfried Lambrecht, a graduate from The Gymnasium of Gottingen, Germany. He came to the town of Indiana in the year 1813 and organized, or may possibly, have re-organized The Lutheran Congregation at Indiana. Rev. Lambrecht also visited the community of "Brush Valley" during the years 1813 and 1814 and held public services in private dwellings in this immediate neighborhood; notably at the home of Peter Fry east of and adjoining the present church property. Among The "original settlers" of this neighborhood were the Bower's; Roser's; Millers; Fry's; Howard's; Steinman's; Keller's; Tyson's; Overdorff's; Heine's; Coy's; Cramer's; Truby's; Leininger's; Empfield's; Creswill's; Altermuse's and DeArmy's coming mainly from east of The Allegheny Mountians ranging from the years 1790 to 1815.



Rev. Lambrecht ceased his ministry here at "Brush Valley" July 1815. After his resignation there is a vacancy of several years, although there is a tradition that a man attempted to impose himself upon the people as a regular, ordained Lutheran Minister, during the years 1817 and 1818, but that he did not succeed.

We have next two ministers who served as supply. The "Brush Valley" and Indiana congregations, which now formed one pastorate. viz. Rev. William Shultz 1819 to 1821 and Rev. --- Moehler in 1821. We now reach the most important period in The History of The Congregation. The Ministry of Rev. G. A. Reichart and the organization of the present congregation and the ERECTION OF "THE OLD LOG CHURCH". Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichart became pastor of this congregation, as well as that at Indiana, August 1st 1821. From the beginning of public services in this community about 1813 or 1814, up to the close of Rev. Reichart's ministry in 1827. The preaching was exclusively in the German; English services being introduced at long intervals, at first, by Rev. A. G. Sharretts, between the years 1827 and 1837. Within the History of This Congregation of Eighty (80) odd years, three (3) church buildings have been erected. It can not be definitely stated in what year the first building called "THE OLD LOG CHURCH" was erected; but most probably during the year 1821; if not earlier; for the Deed conveying the land on which it was built (now forming the main graveyard), bears the date January 26th 1822; and states also, that the house was then in existence. This was the first Lutheran Church erected in Indiana County; and antedates its sister Church in the Charge about nine (9) years; as the First Lutheran Church in Indiana was completed in 1830.

The land on which "The Old Log Church" was built consisting of one (1) acre was purchased of Peter Fry and his wife, Catherine for the sum of \$400; by Jacob Soryer, and John Tyson, Trustees for the Congregation. The deed for this land--dated January 26th 1822--was acknowledged before John Evans, Justice of the



Peace. This acre of land was part of a large tract located in what was then called Wheatfield Township and was "surveyed by Warrant dated December 31st 1773, in the name of Isaac Gray and joining lands of Obadiah Smith; John Story and others". In passing I would state that the original surveys of land in this immediate neighborhood were made by Obadiah Smith, John Story and Isaac Gray about the year 1773-75--The "Smith" survey was East of the "Gray" survey and the "Story" survey North of the same; the road leading to Mechanicsburg being nearly on the line between the last two. This deed states that this "Said Lot (acre) of ground was for the use of all those persons concerned as a place of Public Worship, on which is erected a house for said purpose, hereafter to be known as 'Fry's Meeting House'; and also for the use of schools for the education of youth, and for no other purpose". It was the first church erected in this section of Indiana County--The Old (John)"Fry Meeting House"; on the Daniel Miller farm, about one mile south of Mechanicsburg, was the second church built in this part of the county. The "Old Log Church" was built of small logs; slightly hewed. Valentine Keller and Daniel Fry cut and hewed most of the logs, as well as assisted in the building of the church. "Chunking and daubing" were placed between the logs, and hewed logs pinned to the sleepers by wooden pins made the floor. Two windows were on each side of the building, having 4 or 6 small pairs of glass. So far as I can learn from the oldest living members, the size of the church was about 16 or 18 feet in width, and about 22 or 24 feet in length; and was located in the old grave yard; lengthwise along the road leading from Nolo to Mechanicsburg--a rod or two back from the road and about midway between the two front corners of the graveyard. It was about nine feet in height; one-story; the ceiling being the slab roof; the pulpit was at the East gable end; and, the door at the West end in the center. The first pews were made of hewn slabs similar to benches. At first for heating the church they used the old open fire-hearth and log fire; but latterly used a



(large "Ten-plate-stove"; for lighting the church at night they used the old style "fat-lamp.\*

It is my opinion that Rev. G. A. Reichard organized this congregation about November 1st, 1822; or if not on this date, then on January 11th, 1823. He was a regular ordained minister of the old "Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania, and was commissioned and sent by This Old German Synod as a "Missionary to the Scattered Lutherans of these parts". His first ministerial act that I find recorded by himself in The German, was the baptism of twenty-two children (22) August 1st, 1822, in The "Old Log Church": The twenty-third (23rd) infant baptism recorded was performed November 17th, 1822; immediately preceded by a statement in The German, written November 1st, 1822, which I think Pastor Reichard means to stand as The Organization of The Congregation. In a foot-note I give the first (10) ten infant Baptisms recorded with the date of births\*. Rev. Reichard administered the first Holy Communion he held here, in the Old Log Church, on January 12th, 1823, when seventy-four (74) persons communed. This number included four(4) members from the Congregation at Indiana and also forty-four (44) persons who were Confirmed by Rev. Reichtart on Saturday previous, January 11th.

\*1. Manifacts from Elizabeth Hess, of Mechanicsburg; and Mrs. Rachel (Shuman) Cramer of Sun Cliff, Indiana County

\*2. Baptized August 1st, 1822. Children of Henry and Barbara Coy.

1. Michael Coy born March 13th, 1806	2. Maria Coy, born July 15th, 1807
3. John Coy, born November 24th, 1808	4. Barbara Coy, born March 4th, 1815.
5. Elizabeth Coy, born Jan. 25th, 1817	6. Susanna Coy, born February 7th, 1819
7. Magdalena Coy, born April 21st, 1822	8. Jonas, son of John and Susan Stephen born May 3rd, 1815.
9. Maria, daughter of John & Susan Dunkel born, April 21st, 1822	10. Jacob, son of Peter & Maria Empfield, born August 23rd, 1821.



Confirmed January 11th 1823 and Communing January 12th, 1823

CHARTER MEMBERS

1. Henry Bower, born June 1st, 1780
2. Henry Coy, born December 17th, 1782
3. William Dearmen, born July 21, 1785
4. Peter Bower, born December 17, 1785
5. John Coy, born August 13, 1788
6. John Bower, born July 11, 1790
7. Jacob Brown, born March 14, 1793
8. Henry Bower, born July 12, 1794
9. Adam Bower, born January 19, 1795
10. George Kellar, born January 19, 1796
11. George Nast, born May 16, 1796
12. John Kramer, born July 8, 1796
13. Jacob Kramer, born Jan. 13, 1797
14. Henry Brown, born Sept. 11, 1798
15. George Brown, born February 24, 1801
16. David Bower, born May 2, 1802
17. John Weik, born June 4, 1802
18. John Howard, born April 24, 1806
19. George Roser, born Feb. 23, 1808
20. Maria Bower, born January 8, 1781
21. Barbara Coy, born September 3, 1783
22. Sallie Bower, born April 6, 1787
23. Sallie Coy, Born October 11th, 1792
24. Magdalena Brown, born May, 1796
25. John Bower, born March 31st, 1796
26. Maria Empfield, born March 15, 1798
27. Johanna Strong, born July 11, 1799
28. Elizabeth Bower, born May 1800
29. Catherine Kramer, born May 1, 1802
30. Catherine Strong, born August 29, 1803
31. Elizabeth Bower, born December 28, 1803
32. Christiana Niike, born March 19, 1804
33. Polly Bower, born March 26, 1804
34. Veronica DeArmy, born June 4, 1804
35. Elizabeth Nast, born July 26, 1804
36. Catherine Bower, born October 9, 1804
37. Elizabeth Fetterman, born Oct. 22, 1804
38. Elizabeth Kardus, born Aug. 15, 1805
39. Catherine Howard, born Feb. 26, 1806
40. Maria Fetterman, born Apr. 13, 1806
41. Lydia Tyson, born August 14, 1806
42. Elizabeth Fetterman, born July 30, 1807
43. Maria Lowman, born April 4, 1809
44. Polly Roser, born February 14, 1810

and all who communed, on this occasion at the organization of the congregation.



they were

The following are those who communed January 12th, 1823 — Charter Members

1. Philip Fetterman	17. John Bower
2. Lydia Fetterman	18. Veronica Bower
3. Jacob Soryen	19. Christian Keller
4. James Strong	20. Andreas Lowman
5. Catherine Strong	21. Peter Howard
6. George Roser	22. Magdalena Howard
7. Michael Fetterman	23. Magdalena Bower
8. Catherine Fetterman	24. John Dunkel
9. Susanna Stephen	25. Susan Dunkel
10. Daniel Fetterman	26. Elizabeth DeArmen
11. Rosanna Fetterman	<u>From Indiana Congregation Present</u>
12. John Brown	Conrad Rice
13. Elizabeth Brown	Maria Rice
14. Juhn Tyson	Daniel Henry
15. Magdalena Tyson	Andreas Henry
16. Maria Hartz	Rev. G. A. Reichart, Pastor

Thus twenty-six (26) Church Members and with the 44 confirmed January 11th seventy (70) in all who formed the first congregation and original Charter Members.

Saturday March 19th, 1825, a Catechetical Class of twenty-five (25) persons were confirmed by Rev. Reichart, whose names and Births are given..

Confirmed by Rev. G. A. Reichart March 19, 1825

1. Henry Wilke, Sr.	14. Nancy Wilke, born Aug. 26th, 1784
2. Jacob Fisher, born April 16, 1782	15. Elizabeth Palmer, born June 1, 1790
3. John Kramer, born Nov. 22, 1796	16. Polly Fisher (Bap) born Nov. 1, 1795
4. Peter Stephens born April 7, 1799	17. Margaret Stephen born May 4, 1802



- 5. Samuel Mardus, born September 16, 1801 18. Veronica Meisner, born Sept. 9, 1806
- 6. Christian Keller born Mar. 20, 1803 19. Elizabeth Wike, born Dec. 11, 1806
- 7. David Mardus, born Aug. 16, 1803 20. Maria Reisinger, born Mar. 1807
- 8. George Bower, born Oct. 1803 21. Margaret Bower, born Apr. 4, 1808
- 9. Peter Wike born Nov 11, 1803 22. Catherine Rowan (Bap) born Jan. 31, 1795
- 10. Jacob Stephens born Feb. 25, 1804 23. Maria Stephen born April 23, 1808
- 11. Henry Wike, born February 1, 1808 24. Susanna DeArmen born Sept. 11, 1808
- 12. Valentine Keller born Mar. 19, 1808 25. Elizabeth Dearmen born Oct. 17, 1809
- 13. John Bower born May 8, 1809

They communed with 53 Church members on the following Sabbath, March 20th: making the total number who communed on that day 78.

On Easter Sunday, April 15th, 1827 Rev. Reichart administered his last Holy Communion in this congregation 68 members communing amongst whom were ten (10) catechimens that he confirmed on Saturday, April 14. They were:

Confirmed by Rev. G. A. Reichart April 14th, 1827

- 1. John Stephen born Jan. 10, 1802 6. Michael Fetterman born Oct. 18, 1808
- 2. Jacob DeArmond born Sept. 2, 1806 7. Andreas Fetterman born Jan 3, 1810
- 3. Michael Coy born Mar. 13th, 1807 8. Maria Coy born July 15, 1808
- 4. Henry Dearmond born July 31, 1807 9. Catherine Bower born Aug. 4, 1811
- 5. John Fetterman born Sept. 16, 1807 10. Eva Bower born April 11, 1813

After a ministry of 6 full years at thi place, the Rev. G. A. Reichart resigned August 1st, 1827; removing to Kittanning Armstrong Co., Pa.:

Rev. Reichart resided for the first few years of his ministry here on what is known as the "Reichart Farm" near the "Old Keller Mill". Now called The Schreckengost Mill".

I will give a short summary of his ministerial acts in this congregation; as I have called them, and add them in the Miscellaneous items viz. Confirmations 79;



Infant Baptisms 140 odd: Funerals 10: Marriages 13:

Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts immediately succeeded Rev. Reichart as Pastor:

The pastorate consisting of the congregations at Indiana: BrushValley and Blairsville: and later Strongstown being added. This Charge was Rev. Sharrett's first and only pastorate; he resided in Indiana during his whole ministry here. He administered his first Holy Communion in this congregation Sabbath, April 6, 1828 when 44 members communed. The first recorded Confirmations by Rev. Sharretts in this congregation took place March 1st, 1830: being six (6) in number. The following are their names and births.

Confirmed by Rev. A. G. Sharretts, March 1, 1830

1. Samuel Roser born Nov. 11, 1811	4. Nancy DeArmond born Sept. 27, 1812
2. Henry Getteman born Feb. 3, 1809	5. Catherine Fetterman born June 17, 1812
3. Sophia Fetterman born May 10, 1811	6. Susanna Steck born Sept. 17, 1808

Saturday December 28, 1832, Rev. Sharretts Confirmed 29 Catechumens in this congregation who communed Sabbath December 29th with 67 other members. Making a total of 96 Communicants on that day.

Confirmed by Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts, December 28, 1832

1. John McIlhenny	16. Sarah Stinenan
2. Benjamin Gilhousen	17. Sarah DeArmond
3. Ludwig Coy	18. Veronica Coy
4. John Coy	19. Catherine Hess
5. Samuel Fetterman	20. Elizabeth DeArmond
6. Daniel Fetterman	21. Meziah Roser
7. John Steck	22. Barbara Coy
8. Jacob Fetterman	23. Susan Shuman
9. Willian Shuman	24. Rachel Cramer
10. Daniel Cramer	25. Elizabeth Coy
11. David Steph	26. Susan Power
12. Willian Steph	27. Sarah Power
13. John DeArmond (Bap)	28. Mary Leininger
14. John Leininger	29. Catherine Empfield
15. Levi Silhousen	



On Saturday, April 19, 1835, Rev. Sharretts Confirmed a Class of Catechumens numbering 21 who communed with 93 members of the congregation Sabbath morning, April 20; making a total of 114 members communing.

Confirmed by Rev. N. G. Sharretts, April 19, 1835

1. Jacob Dick	12. Catherine Fetterman
2. Isaac DeArmond	13. Elizabeth Coy
3. John Coy (of John) born Nov. 2, 1814	14. Rosina Fetterman
4. Adam DeArmond	15. Sarah Bower
5. George Wike	16. Catherine Leininger
6. David Wike	17. Catherine Stephy
7. John Henry	18. Sophia Steck
8. Edmund Paige	19. Elizabeth Brown
9. Elizabeth Paige	20. Catherine Brown
10. Christiana Roser	21. Catherine Miller
11. Margaret Waltemyer	

About January 1, 1833, Rev. Sharretts organized The Lutheran Congregation at Strongstown with 24 Charter Members: nine of whom, at least, were from this congregation to form the new organization, which was made an integral part of the charge. Rev. Sharretts was the first pastor to introduce English services; he frequently preached both German and English at the same service: about every four weeks: and sometimes on Saturday's. He died at Indiana, December 31, 1836; after a ministry of 9 years and 2 months. Aged 34 years, 1 month and 11 days. His remains rest in The "Oakland Cemetery" at Indiana, Pa. to await the resurrection of The Just. He was a good man and a faithful servant of Jesus Christ. I give a sketch of his life in the attached Appendix "B". A summary of his ministerial acts here, embraces 56 Confirmations; 99 Infant Baptisms; and 20 Marriages.



Rev. J. Brown, succeeded Rev. Sharretts as Pastor of the Indiana Charge in 1837: The Charge then embraced the 3 congregations at "Brush Valley"; Strongstown; and Indiana: with most probably the Congregation at Blairsville. I find no confirmations or communions recorded in this congregation by Rev. Brown.

The Rev. Jacob Medtart followed Rev. Brown taking charge March 1, 1838. I find recorded during Rev. Medtart's ministry.

Confirmed by Rev. Jacob Medtart, June 13, 1840

1. Elizabeth George	9. Elizabeth Keller
2. John Paige	10. Lydia Leininger
3. Peter Roser	11. Mary Bowers
4. Gideon Fetterman	12. Catherine Roser
5. Elizabeth George	13. Mary Ann Bowers
6. John C. Fetterman	14. Sally Empfield
7. Susan Fetterman	15. William H. Miller (by Certificate)
8. George Empfield	

On May 28, 1842, Rev. Medtart organized the "Salem Lutheran Church" of Smicksburg. This County, whilst he also served The "Plum Creek" congregation—Thus, the Indiana Charge then consisted of the 5 following congregations. viz. Indiana; "Brush Valley"; Strongstown"; Smicksburg, and "Plum Creek": The pastor residing in Indiana. About the year 1842 Rev. A. Babb took charge of the Blairsville congregation.

On June 13, 1840 the following persons were elected Church Officers, the first I find recorded. viz. Elders—Samuel Wagely and George Keller Deacons—Philip Coup and Edmund Paige Deacons—Jacob DeArmond and Daniel Cramer Rev. Medtart resigned here about October 1, 1842, and was succeeded by the Rev. David Adams, who took charge Nov. 1, 1842. During Rev. Adam's ministry the propriety of building the Second Church was agitated, but owing to some business difficulties he resigned Sept 19, 1844, and removed; afterward engaging in the practice of medicine. I find no records of his ministry.



Rev. Henry Bishop took charge of the Indiana pastorate in 1843, and began his ministry with this congregation Nov. 1, 1844. During the last 3 years of his ministry, 1847, '48, and '49. The Indiana Charge consisted of only two (2) congregations. viz. Indiana and "Brush Valley" with occasional services at Strongstown.

#### SECOND CHURCH BUILDING -- "BRUSH VALLEY"

The Second Church building, dedicated with the name "The 'Brush Valley' Evangelical Lutheran Church" was erected during the year 1845; and most probably finished in the summer of 1846. It was a frame building; about 40 by 45 feet in size; and located in The Graveyard a little east of the "Old Log Church". The Building Committee were Samuel Gulden; Jacob Dearmond, Adam George; Nicholas Altemus, Sr., and Jacob Shultz (probably)

Samuel Shultz of Strongstown had the contract for the carpenter-work at about \$100.00, which did not include the pews: The finishing and painting of the Building. Samuel Roser, Sr., built the Foundation-wall; and Frederick Herlinger put in the pews and finished the church probably during the spring and summer of 1846. Rev. Riser, then President of the Allegheny Synod in his annual report to the Synod, Sept. 1, 1846 says: "Brother Bishop informs me that two (2) new churches have been built in Indiana County during the last year; one at Smicksburg and one at "Brush Valley!". This second church was named "The 'Brush Valley' Evangelical Lutheran" from the fact that it was located in "Brush Valley" Township. This Township was taken from Wheatfield Township in 1835. The timber along the streams was short and was compared by the early settlers of this section to "Brush": hence the names of "Brush Valley" and "Brush Creek".

Admitted to Church Membership by Rev. Henry Bishop

1. Mrs. Eleanor McCracken in 1846 by Baptism
2. Mrs. Martha Noble in 1846 by Baptism
3. Miss Elizabeth Paige in 1846 by Confirmation
4. Nicholas Altemus and his wife in 1848 by Confirmation
5. Mrs. Mary Altemus in 1848 by Baptism and Confirmation



The "Old Log Church" after being used for its holy purposes for over 25 years was reverently taken down in the "Early fifties". Rev. Henry Bishop resigned November 1, 1849 and the Rev. C. J. Deininger succeeding who took charge of this and the Indiana Congregation in the early part of 1850. During his ministry here Rev. Deininger admitted eight (8) persons to church membership by the rite of Confirmation.

Confirmed by Rev. C. J. Deininger

Spring 1851

1. A. C. Noble

October 5, 1851

1. George W. Rhodes

2. Rebecca Rhodes

### 3. Lucinda Misener

3. Lucinda Misener 6. Susanna Paige

During the fall of 1873 the following Church Officers were elected:

During the fall of 1847 the following church officers were Elected.

Rev. Deininger as well as Rev. Bishop officiated in both the German and English Language; supplying the Strongstown congregation with services whilst in charge here. On account of ill health Rev. Deininger resigned December 1852, and was at once succeeded by the Rev. Peter Sahn, D. D.

On the 1st of January 1853 Rev. Sahm took charge of the Indiana pastorate then consisting of Indiana, "Brush Valley" and Strongstown; preaching his introductory sermons in The "Zion Lutheran Church" Indiana, January 2, 1853. English in the morning, German in the afternoon. Rev. P. Sahm preached here in both German and English, about every two weeks. He administered the Holy Communion in this congregation October 2, 1853, when 96 members communed, including 41 persons who were confirmed Saturday October 1.



Confirmed October 1, 1853 by Rev. Dr. Peter Sahn

1. Peter Roser	22. Nancy Bowers
2. John Coup	23. Nancy Coy
3. Daniel Gulden	24. Jenina Empfield
4. Abednego Keller	25. Caroline Coy
5. Isaac Bowers	26. Rachel Ann Keller
6. Benjamin Roser	27. Frances Bowers
7. Nicholas Keller	28. Barbara Ellen Lower
8. Henry Luther Rhoads	29. Catherine Coup
9. John DeArmy	30. Elizabeth DeArmy
10. Simon DeArmy	31. Mary Ann Empfield
11. John Fornwall	32. Maria Gulden
12. John Bowers	33. Elizabeth Gulden
13. Francis Hollinger	34. Elizabeth Roser
14. Christian R. Weaver	35. Elizabeth Weaver - Baptized
15. Alemina Keller	36. Mary Ann Altemus - Baptized
16. Mary Bowers	37. Evaline Altemus - Baptized
17. Hannah Keller	38. Sarah Altemus - Baptized
18. Mary Rebecca Anon	39. Margaret Hollinger - Baptized
19. Elizabeth Catherine Lower	40. Susanna Altemus - Baptized
20. Rachel Bowers	41. Mary A. Holmes - Baptized
21. Ellen Bowers	

During Rev. Dr. Peter Sahn's ministry the present Lutheran Church at Strongstown was erected. After a service of about five (5) years, Rev. Sahn resigned, February 1, 1858 and was followed by the Rev. William S. Emery, who took charge of the Indiana pastorate April 1, 1858: The Charge consisted of 3 congregations. viz. Indiana; "Brush Valley" and Strongstown; the pastor resided in Indiana. In Rev. Emery's ministry here 19 members were received into the church



10 by Confirmation and 7 by Certificate and 2 by Profession of Faith.

Confirmed by Rev. William S. Emery

May 10th, 1858 - James C. McFeaters

Received by Certificate May 10, 1858 Confirmed December 16, 1860

1. - - - Hite and Wife

1. John Dickey

2. Mrs. Hite

2. Simon Lydick

3. - - - Weaver and Wife

From M. E. Church by Certificate  
December 16, 1860

4. Mrs. Weaver

1. Isaac Bowers

5. Mrs. Empfield

2. Mrs. Isaac Bowers

Confirmed January 30, 1859

Received by Profession of Faith  
October 10, 1858

1. Martha Folkomer

1. John Weaver

2. Susanna Folkomer

2. Christiann Weaver

3. Martha E. Lower

4. Barbara Folkomer

5. Elizabeth Coy

6. Maria Coup

7. Margaret Lower

Rev. Emery was the last minister here to use both German and English. The Indiana Charge was divided during the last year of Rev. Emery's ministry here. The Indiana Congregation remaining alone; and "Brush Valley" and Strongstown separating to form a new charge to be known as the "Brush Valley Charge". -- Thus, from their organization respectively, about November 1, 1822, and January 1, 1833. The "Brush Valley" and The Strongstown congregations were an integral part of the Indiana Charge, to April 1861. Rev. Emery resigned the charge April 8, 1861, and the Rev. Henry Gathers became pastor at once, as supply, of the new "Brush Valley Charge". He also at the same time, probably supplied part, if not the whole, of the "Cookport Charge", as the Synodical minutes show he served 4 congregations.



Rev. Gathers resided in McChanicsburg. He served "Brush Valley" and Strongstown, probably, every two weeks from April 8th, 1861 to March 1st, 1862. He was the first minister here who held no German Services but preached only English. When he resigned, and was immediately succeeded by the Rev. George M. Settlemyer.

Rev. Settlemyer served four (4) congregations. viz. "Brush Valley", Strongstown, Germany, and most probably "Mt. Zion" of the "Cockport Charge". He resided in Mechanicsburg and probably served each congregation every two weeks. It is worthy of mention that during Rev. Settlemyer's ministry, Mr. Adam Altemus, an aged and worthy member of this congregation willed in 1863, a Thousand Dollars \$1,000.00 to our Lutheran Mission in Africa.

On January 24, 1864, Rev. Settlemyer received into the congregation 3 new members by confirmation. They were Andrew Paul, Zechariah Paul and William Hite. After a ministry of four (4) years. Rev. Settlemyer resigned, The charge March 1, 1866; and was followed by Rev. George F. Ehrenfeld, who took charge of the "Brush Valley" pastorate, as a Supply, June 1, 1866. He served Strongstown in connection with this congregation, as for other congregations I can not state; since not a record line of his ministry here is given. Rev. Ehrenfeld served nearly two (2) years resigning April 1, 1868.

This congregation with Strongstown was vacant now for something over a year.

Rev. Simon P. Snyder became pastor of this the "Brush Valley" charge. Coming from Blairsville, Indiana County, about December 1, 1869. Rev. Snyder resided in Mechanicsburg and he organized the present Lutheran Congregation in Homer City and he also supplied Gracetown "Luther Chapel," and "New Florence Mission" in connection with the two congregations of the "Brush Valley Charge"; he, likewise held occasional services at "Mt. Zion" of the "Cockport Charge". I do not find recorded a single act of his entire ministry here, of near 5 years duration.



Rev. Snyder resigned this charge April 1, 1874. He died at Van Werk, Ohio, December 6th, 1895; aged 74 years; and 10 months. I give a short sketch of his life in Appendix "C".

Rev. Isaiah B. Crist — After a vacancy during the summer months, the Rev. Isaiah B. Crist succeeded Rev. Snyder, taking charge of the pastorate, November 1, 1874. He resided in New Florence; and, served with the "Brush Valley" Congregation; Strongstown; Germany; "Mt. Zion", and New Florence Mission. Rev. Crist remained one year resigning Nov. 1, 1875. The charge was now vacant for near 6 months when Rev. A. W. McCullough took charge April 1, 1876. Rev. McCullough resided in "Brush Valley" Township; and he served this congregation; with Strongstown; and the "Mt. Zion" congregation now of the "Cookport" charge for the term of two (2) years, preaching every two weeks. Rev. McCullough resigned April 1, 1878 and was succeeded by Rev. Benjamin J. Tomlinson, who served, as a supply. This congregation during the summer months of 1878. After the Rev. Tomlinson discontinued his services— Rev. A. W. McCullough, then residing in Dixonville, took charge, as a supply during part of the year 1879, serving this congregation in connection probably with "Mt. Zion" charge. On December 6, 1879 Rev. McCullough admitted four (4) persons into the church by Confirmation. They were:

1. Catherine Fisher (Baptized Dec. 5th)	3. Jennie M. Murdick
2. Catherine Evans	4. Weaver

Rev. H. O. T. Sahm, in the Spring of 1880 followed Rev. McCullough and Supplied this congregation and Strongstown with services, in connection with the "Mt. Zion" congregation and the Cookport Charge. Rev. Sahm is a Son of Rev. Dr. Peter Sahm, dec'd: pastor of the charge from January 1, 1853 to February 1, 1858. The son served here until the fall of 1882.



## THIRD CHURCH BUILDING

We now reach the period of the Third or present Church building. On the 13th of August 1877 the Trustees met at the home of Daniel Garman to consult about building a new church. They organized by electing John D. Paige, as president; M. S. Stewart, Secretary and David Garman, Treasurer. It was at this meeting, resolved that the Trustees purchase a lot of ground from Peter Howard upon which to erect the new church. On the 22nd of September 1881, the Trustees of the congregation--viz. John D. Paige, Christian R. Weaver and Lloyd Shaffer, purchased of Peter Howard, and his Wife, Lucinda, for the sum of \$10,00 about one-fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of an acre of land, along the Eastern line of the then church lands on which the new church was placed. Then, at a meeting of the Church-council held at the home of the late John Shaffer, of precious memory, it was determined that a mechanic be secured to examine the Old or Second Church-building to ascertain if it were practicable to repair the old building or best to erect a new one. Mr. John P. Kennedy was appointed to examine the Old Church; and he reported that it was "not worth the repairing." At a meeting of the Church-council held August 8, 1881, it was resolved to take the necessary steps to erect a new house of worship. The dimensions to be as follows. viz. size 30 by 45 feet: 15 feet high. Mr. John P. Kennedy was requested to draw a plan and specifications for the new church, as early as possible. On Monday, August 25, 1881, the Board of Trustees, consisting of John D. Paige, Christian R. Weaver and Lloyd Shaffer, met in the Old (or 2nd) Church for the writing of proposals for "Bids" for the building of the new church, which were posted at various places. September 3, 1881 the Trustees compared the various "bids" received; and they awarded the contract for building the church to John P. Kennedy for the sum of \$975.00 to be paid in Three payments; the parties concerned signing an agreement to that effect. Mr. Matthias Yaney did the mason work at the new church building. On Wednesday, September 20, 1882 the Contractor, John P. Kennedy and The Board of Trustees met in the new or present church building:



They together examined the building, when it was pronounced satisfactory, the following is an itemized statement of the cost of this new or present church building:

Contract of J. P. Kennedy	\$975.00
Extra paid for steps	3.00
Extra paid for painting spire	3.00
Cost of wall	54.75
Cost of Furnishing (Estimated)	<u>185.75</u>
TOTAL COST	\$1,160.75

On Sabbath, October 15, 1882, the present church was dedicated to the worship of The Triune God, The "feast of dedication" was a joyous occasion. The last payment due contractor Kennedy, to the sum of \$375.00 was "raised" at the Dedication; and the Church stood free of debt. A large concourse of people gathered, to praise The Lord for His goodness; and joy filled all hearts. Rev. P. G. Bell of Indiana, this county, preached the dedicatory sermon; and consecrated The Church to its holy purposes. Rev. M. O. T. Sahn, pastor of the Cookport Charge; and Rev. J. R. Beard, a minister of the U. Presbyterian Church of Penn Run, this county, were also present; and assisted in the services. In the audience was Mrs. Sarah Sahn, the widow of Dr. Peter Sahn once pastor of the congregation for 5 years. Most probably amongst the most interested persons gathered in the large audience at this dedication service were Valentine Keller and his wife, Margaret Keller, who were the only charter members of the original congregation then living. Valentine Keller had helped to build the first church, when about 13 or 14 years of age; and he now had lived to see the Third (3rd) church dedicated. I call attention to the interesting fact, also, that Valentine Keller, and his wife Margaret (nee' Bowers) were confirmed, at the same time, with the class of 25, by the first pastor, Rev. G. A. Reichart, on March 19, 1825:



Mr. Keller's 17th birthday: that was 17 days older at the time than his wife: and that, on Sabbath morning, March 20th they together partook of The Holy Communion. The 2nd administered in The "Old Log Church" by Pastor Reichart. And what a beautiful ending to relate still further, that Margaret Keller, familiarly known as "Aunt Peggy", has quite recently passed to her Heavenly Home on the 17th of October 1900, at "The good, old age" of 92 years, 6 months and 12 days. She was the very last of the original congregation to linger on the earth, and pass over to The Church where "The Years Ne'er end; and the congregation ne'er breaks up". With a melancholy interest, I shall at this point, "Turn the Leaf of History", which takes us into "The Valley and Shadow" of the Church's Life. I shall give some of the earliest deaths in the congregation and burials: recorded in The German. In all probability -- the First burial-place in this community was on The Isaac Griffith farm, now owned by the widow, Emma Simons, of Sun Cliff; it is to the left of the road leading from Suncliff to Schreckengost's Mill, and near the White Oak Tree, at the foot of the first hill: 4 or 5 rods in from the road.

#### EARLY DEATHS, Interred by Rev. G. A. Reichart

1. The first recorded death, on the Church records is that of John Stephan, who died October 26th, 1823. Aged probably between 57 & 58 years. Funeral text Heb. 4:1.
2. John Hart, born August 10, 1764, died November 5, 1823. Aged 59 years 2 months and 26 days. Funeral text Math. 5:3
3. David Kramer, son of John and Maria Kramer, born August 29, 1801 in Norn's Cive Bedford County. Died July 11, 1824. Aged 22 years, 10 months and 13 days.
4. Philip Stephen; born May 31, 1806. Died October 14, 1824. Aged 18 years, 4 months and 13 days. Funeral text Psa. 16:6
5. William Empfield; born August 29th, 1824. Died October 30th, 1924. Aged 2 months and 1 day. Funeral Text 1st Peter 1:24 and 25.
6. Elizabeth Graw; daughter of Adam and Barbara, born March 1807. Died March 3rd, 1825. Aged 18 years. Funeral Text, Math. 21:22
7. Peter Stephen, born April 7, 1799. Died Nov. 10, 1825. Aged 26 years, 7 months and 3 days.



8. Henry, Son of John and Susanna Dunkel, born May 11, 1824. Died January 4, 1826  
Aged 1 year 7 months and 24 days.
9. Susanna, daughter of Peter and Barbara Helman, born July 2, 1815. Died  
June 4, 1826. Aged 10 years, 11 months, and 2 days.

There are some deaths recorded that deserve more than a passing notice: First is that of Mrs. Catherine Frey. She was born in York County, Pennsylvania on the 28th day of January 1759; her maiden name was Hirschinger. She died in Wheatfield Township, this county, April 18, 1831. Aged 72 years, 2 months, and 20 days. She was the wife of Peter Frey with whom she lived in matrimony 53 years 6 months and 13 days and was the mother of 12 children viz. 7 sons and 5 daughters, who were all alive at her death.

Peter Frey, the husband of the above named Catherine. He was born in Windsor Township, York County, November 28, 1750. Died in Wheatfield Township, this county, May 3, 1831, but 15 days after his wife at the "ripe age of 80 years, 5 months and 5 days. They were both interred by the pastor Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts.

Christopher Keller, one of the oldest settlers, at the time of "Brush Valley" Township, died on Sunday the 12th day of May 1839, in the 75th year of his age; he was buried on Tuesday, May 14, his pastor Rev. Jacob Medtart preaching the funeral sermon from Gen. 47:9. "And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage", "But O for the touch of a vanished hand. And the sound of a voice that is still." And thus, we take up "The golden thread" that is attached to the "Leaf of History." In all probability, after the resignation of Rev. M. O. T. Sahn, in October 1882, the "Brush Valley" charge was vacant for about one year, from October 1882, to November 1883; for I can find no reports to the contrary on the Church Records, nor in the Minutes of Synod.



The Rev. W. E. Crebs became pastor of this congregation November 1, 1883, serving it for one year, in connection with the "Homer Charge", he residing in Homer City, most probably, during the year 1883. This congregation was separated from the Strongtown congregation and united with the "Homer Charge". Rev. Crebs resigned here November 1, 1884 and was succeeded by Rev. John W. Reese, who became pastor of the "Homer Charge" April 1, 1885 and he resided in "Homer City". The Charge consisted of Homer City, "Brush Valley" and "Luther Chapel" of Gracetown. On the 8th November, 1885 the Trustees of the congregation sold the balance of the lumber of the Old or Second Church building, for the sum of \$12.62, and this leads me to the conclusion that The Old Frame Church" was taken down during the year 1884 or 85 after being used for its sacred purpose for about 40 years. During his ministry here Rev. Reese admitted six (6) persons to Church membership.

Admissions by Rev. John W. Reese

January 16th 1887	July 8th, 1888 by Confirmation
1. Mrs. Tillie J. Keller (Certificate)	1. Fannie E. Altemus
2. Christian W. Keller (Prof. of Faith)	2. Jessie M. Rhoads
3. Miss Charlotte Coup (Prof. of Faith)	
4. Miss Jennie Coup (Prof. of Faith)	

Confirmed by Rev. J. W. Reese, October 24, 1885

1. Israel Paul	3. John Sidmond Marks
2. Jacob I. Paul	

In the fall of the year 1885 Mr. Stephen H. Rand was employed to fence the church grounds on the East and South sides at the cost of 25¢ per panel.

After serving this congregation for 4 years until April 1, 1889, Rev. Reese resigned and was followed by Rev. J. W. Shaeffer, who took charge of the "Homer Pastorate" June 1, 1889, he residing in Homer City. He preached here every two weeks serving until June 1, 1891, or two years when he resigned removing to Augustaville, Pennsylvania



Rev. W. G. Slonaker succeeded Rev. Shaeffer, as a Supply to this congregation and Strongstown, during the summer of 1892. Rev. Slonaker was then a student of Theology at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa. The charge now consisting of "Brush Valley" and Strongstown, was vacant for about a year when Rev. S. V. Dye became pastor, August 1, 1893 residing in Strongstown. In the month of February 1894. Rev. J. R. Sample assisted the pastor Rev. Dye, in a series of special services when a goodly number were moved to inquire What "They must do to be Saved". A "free-will Offering" was made to Rev. Sample for his services of \$20.67. The following were admitted to Church membership during the ministry of Rev. Dye.

ADMISSIONS by Rev. S. V. Dye

February 25, 1894 by Confirmation	May 6, 1894 by Profession of Faith
1. Miss Gertie J. McFeaters	1. John Coup
2. Miss Bessie T. McFeaters	February 3, 1895
3. Miss Gertie Murdick	1. George B. Rand by Prof. of Faith
4. Miss Celia Campbell	2. Miss Martha Matilda Empfield (Baptism)
5. Miss Cora N. Altemus	February 17, 1895 by Certificate
6. Mrs. Addie Syster	1. Mr. George B. Hill
7. John E. Weaver	2. Mrs. George B. Hill
8. Lewis D. McCullough	
9. Elmer E. Campbell By Baptism	April 4th 1895 by Certificate from Lutheran Church
10. Miss Alta Z. Empfield (now Hoover)	1. George R. Stewart
11. Miss Jennie B. Empfield (now Murdick)	2. Mrs. George R. Stewart
12. Miss Lillie Belle Hill (now Buterbaugh)	3. Miss Gertie V. Paul (Confirmed)
13. Mrs. Nancy Elizabeth Bowers	
14. Benjamin Daniel Hill	
By Profession of Faith	
15. Miss Mary Margaret McCullough	
16. Mrs. Arabella Bowers	
17. Miss Viola G. Campbell	
18. George G. McCullough	
19. David Elmer McCullough	



Rev. Dye ceased his labors here April 1, 1896, when Rev. Jacob H. Hankey became pastor as a supply during the summer of 1896 and to 1897. He served "Brush Valley" and Strongstown in connection with "Antioch" of the Cookport charge, Rev. Hankey ceased his labors in the fall of 1897 and Rev. Samuel A. Shaulis of New Florence took charge of the pastorate as a supply during the summer of 1898. He served this congregation with Strongstown until about November,

Rev. J. Milton Snyder, the present pastor succeeded Rev. Shaulis taking charge May 1, 1899, removing from Tremont, Schuylkill County, Pa., he resided in Strongstown and preached at this congregation and Strongstown every Sabbath. Rev. Snyder was installed pastor August 13, 1899. Sabbath 10:00 A. M. at Strongstown and 3:00 P. M. at "Brush Valley". Revs Lewis Hay of Indiana and G. L. Courtney of Homer City preaching to the congregation and pastor respectively. During the present pastorate up to this time, the following were admitted to the church.

Admissions by Rev. J. Milton Snyder, Pastor

July 23, 1899 by Certificates from  
Lutheran Church of Indiana

July 30, 1899 by Confirmation

Joseph Everett

1. Isaiah S. Kepple and

2. Wife Mary J. Kepple

3. Mrs. Margaret Hoover (Reinstated

Rachel Ann (Stahl) Coy by Baptism and Confirmation Sept. 15, 1901. Born Oct. 12, 1865

Annie Belle Cramer by Confirmation September 15, 1901

Samuel Shem Gressley by Confirmation September 15, 1901

Nancy Malissa Gressley by Confirmation September 15, 1901

Andrew Curtin Murdick by Confirmation January 19, 1902. Born Dec. 27, 1863

Henry A. Burkhardt by Certif. from Strongstown Ch. Sept. 28, 1902

Sara A. Burkhardt by Certif. from Strongstown Ch. Sept. 23, 1902

Nora (Burkhardt) Rhodes by Certif from Strongstown Ch. Sept. 28, 1902

Daniel Altemus, by Baptism Sept. 30, 1903. Born June 4th 1855

Jesse Wilmer Burkhardt by Confirmation March 30, 1904. Born August 28, 1885



It is but fitting to state that in the summer and fall of 1899 the ladies of the congregation held several "festivals" to secure funds to beautify and repair the church building. They gathered the sum of \$26.17 of which was used to paper the church walls and ceiling; leaving a balance of \$13.44 which was used toward the repainting of the church. Miss Jennie Coup and Miss Gertie Murdick acted as an efficient committee in this good work by The Ladies. During the fall of 1900 the church building was repainted within and without and the present out buildings erected at a cost of \$106.00: making the total cost of repairs about \$130.00 paid cash. The pastor acting as solicitor and collector of the subscribed funds. The Decker Brothers of Penn Run, this county, doing the painting and papering, by contract. All who worked so faithfully at these repairs, and gave so generously, deserve full credit. Another item, worthy of record was the convening of The Eastern Conference of The Pittsburg Synod (G.S.) October 29, 1900 in this congregation for the first time in its history. The conference met Monday evening and continued in session until Wednesday noon, October 31st, fourteen (14) Lutheran Ministers being in attendance; including Rev. J. Aberly, a Lutheran Missionary, lately returned from India. Various subjects of general religious interest were discussed, and the conference was a most enjoyable occasion.

I will here give a list of all the Church Officers as found recorded.

#### THE CHURCH OFFICERS

##### Church Councils

In 1876

John D. Paige  
Mathias Altemus  
Uriah Younkin  
Chambers Murdick

In 1884

John D. Paige - Elder  
Chambers Murdick - Elder  
Stephen H. Rand - Treasurer  
Adam George - Deacon  
Charles J. Rhoads - Deacon

In 1887

John D. Paige - Elder  
Chambers Murdick - Elder

Stephen H. Rand - Deacon  
C. J. Rhoads - Deacon  
C. R. Weaver - Deacon  
David Garman - Treasurer for 1 year

In 1888

John D. Paige - Elder  
Chambers Murdick - Elder  
Christian R. Weaver - Deacon  
Stephen H. Rand - Deacon  
Charles J. Rhoads - Deacon



In 1893 and 1894      Installed Sept. 10,  
1893

John Shaffer - Elder  
S. H. Rand - Elder  
Israel Paul - Deacon  
Wm. W. Nevins - Deacon  
C. W. Keller - Deacon  
C. R. Weaver - Deacon  
S. H. Rand - Treasurer  
C. W. Keller - Trustee  
C. R. Weaver - Trustee  
Israel Paul - Trustee  
George R. Stewart - Deacon -  
Installed October 27, 1895

In 1896      Installed Oct. 11, '96

John Shaffer - President - Elder  
S. H. Rand - Treasurer - Elder  
George R. Stewart - Secretary - Deacon  
Israel Paul - Deacon  
C. W. Keller - Deacon  
H. W. Learn - Deacon  
C. W. Keller - Trustee  
W. H. Lower - Trustee  
D. E. McCullough - Trustee

In 1899 Installed November 12, 1899

I. S. Kepple - Elder  
S. H. Rand - Treasurer - Elder  
Christ. W. Keller - Deacon  
Israel Paul - Deacon  
Geo. R. Stewart - Secretary - Deacon

Installed April 2, 1900

Jacob I. Paul - Trustee  
Wm. H. Lower - Trustee  
H. W. Learn

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Delegates from this congregation to the Pittsburg Synod (G.S.)

John D. Paige      Meeting in Blairsville, Indiana County, Pa. October 1890.

George R. Stewart.      Meeting in Apollo, Pa. October 1897

Christian W. Keller, meeting in Pittsburg, Pa. October 1900

#### SABBATH SCHOOL

It would be interesting to give a full and accurate history of the Sabbath School of the congregation called truly "The Nursery of The Church", but I am sorry to say that I am unable to give a full history. So far as I can learn the first Sabbath School of the congregation was organized soon after the Second Church was built; and most probably during the year 1847; whilst Rev. Henry Bishop was pastor. I am not able to state who were the first Officers of the school. In the Spring of 1857 the school was re-organized. John D. Paige being elected Sup't.



## Sunday School Officers 1876

John D. Paige - Sup't.

David Garman - Librarian

Mathias Altemus - Treasurer

## Present Officers 1900-01

Isaiah S. Kepple - Sup't.

Christian W. Keller - Asst. Supt.

Miss Alice Shaffer - Secretary

Mrs. Alice Paul - Treasurer

## YOUNG PEOPLES SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

The Christian Endeavor Society of the congregation was organized Sept. 13, 1893.

## Present Officers 1900-01

## First Officers

Wm. M. Nevins - President

Fannie (Altemus) McFeaters - Secretary

Rev. A. W. McCullough - Cor. Secretary

Miss Harriet Shaffer - Treasurer

Margaret Empfield - President

Harriet Shaffer - Vice President

Cora Altemus - Rec. Secretary

Tillie J. Keller - Cor. Secy

Alice Shaffer - Treasurer

The WOMEN'S HOME and FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY of the congregation was organized during the meeting of the Eastern Conference on October 30, 1900 by Rev. Mrs.

Lewis Hay. President of the Synodical Society of the Pittsburgh Synod.

The first officers of the Society were: Mrs. George R. Stewart - President

Mrs. I. S. Kepple - Vice President Miss Alice Shaffer - Rec. Secretary

Mrs. Tillie J. Keller - Cor. Secretary Miss Harriet Shaffer - Treasurer

FIRST MARRIAGES It may be a matter of interest to hear of the first marriages recorded by the first three pastors viz. Rev. Reichart, Sharrets and Modtart, who made a record of marriages. There are 39 recorded.

## Marriages by Rev. G. A. Reichart

1. Jacob Cramer to Elizabeth Fetterman March 11th 1823
2. George Keller to Catherine Bower July 15, 1823
3. John Stephen to Sally Bower October 2, 1823
4. Herman Tyson to Anna Murphy December 19, 1823
5. George Glassford to Elizabeth Wolf January 1, 1824
6. George Wohlfart to Marie Lloyd April 8, 1824
7. David Reisinger to Susanna Enders April 29, 1824
8. Christian Keller to Anna Maria Hart May 4, 1824



9. David Meisner to Elizabeth Bower	September 2, 1824
10. Samuel Meisner to Veronica Bower	November 2, 1824
11. David Bower to Sally Samson	April 13, 1826
12. Christian Keller to Christina Weik	May 16, 1826
13. John Thompson to Susanna Samson	June 1, 1826

Marriages by Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts

1. Henry Bower to Elizabeth Fetterman	November 6, 1827
2. Jacob DeArmond to Mary Reisinger	April 24, 1828
3. Michael Fetterman to Mary Coy	May 1829
4. William Shuman to Catherine Bower	August 20, 1829
5. Daniel Cramer to Rachel Shuman	March 4, 1830
6. John Steffy to Elizabeth Wike	April 8, 1830
7. John Fetterman to Elizabeth DeArmond	December 9, 1830
8. Michael Coy to Elizabeth Fetterman	November 17, 1831
9. John McFeaters to Susan DeArmond	November 24, 1831
10. Michael Helman to Catherine Sorgus	October 11, 1832
11. Henry DeArmond to Sarah Stinenan	January 3, 1833
12. Jacob Dick to Sophia Fetterman	February 28, 1833
13. Robert Dunwoodie to Mary Stevens	March 14, 1833
14. Alexander Patterson to Martha Campbell	March 27, 1833
15. George Roser to Christiana Fetterman	October 24, 1833
16. Ludwig Coy to Margaret Slippy	March 1834
17. Andrew Fetterman to Catherine Stoll	
18. John Coy Sr. to Mary DeHavens	
19. John Coy (of Henry) to Barbara Diehl	February 12, 1835
20. Henry Wike to Nancy Empfield	

Marriages by Rev. Jacob Medtart

1. John Leininger to Susan Shiraly	March 21, 1839
2. Isaac DeArmond to Margaret Sorgus	March 28, 1839
3. Herman Miller to Sarah Sorgus	April 11, 1839
4. John Stake to Sarah DeArmond	July 14, 1840
5. John Sorgus to Lydia Leininger	March 21, 1842
6. William Fowler to Elizabeth Coy	April 21, 1842

PURCHASE OF CHURCH L.NDS

- I. One acre of Land was purchased from Peter Fry and Wife Catherine. Original tract for the Graveyard by John Tyson and Jacob Soryer, Trustees of the Congregation for sum of \$4.00. Deed dated January 26, 1822.
- II. Fifty-eight (58) perches. Stick measure, purchased from Peter Howard and wife Lucinda for Burial ground by John D. Paige; John Paul and Samuel DeArmond Wolf, Trustees of the congregation for the sum of \$9.06 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Deed dated June 1, 1866. Recorded in deed book "L" Vol. 64. pa. 630, Indiana Co. Pa.
- III. About one-fourth ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) acre purchased of Peter Howard and wife Lucinda, on which present church is now built, the lot beginning at a post on the East end of the Altemus grave lot and running with the line of the said church land East for about three and one-half ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ ) rods; Thence parallel to the other line of the church lot due North to a White Oak Tree, on the public road leading to Mechanicsburg from Nolo; Thence West along said public road about three and one-half ( $3\frac{1}{2}$ ) rods to the corner of said church lot at the public road; bought by C. R. Weaver; Lloyd Shaffer, and John D. Paige, Trustees of the congregation for the sum of \$10.00 cash. Purchased Sept. 22, 1881.



SKETCH OF SOLDIERS BURIED in the "Brush Valley" Lutheran Cemetery or who were killed in Battle servin<sup>g</sup> during the Civil War 1861-1865

Benjamin Meyers War 1812. Died June 24, 1876. Aged 85 years, 7 months, 8 days

John Howard War 1812 In his 30th year

Abraham Coy 55th Regiment, Pa. Vol. Co. F. (?)

Joseph Everett 55 Regiment Pa. Vol. Co. F Died Oct. 19, 1899 In 69th yr. of age

Daniel S. Croft Regt. Died February 2, 1890. Aged 86 years and 8 months

David W. Keller Co. B. Independent Batt. Pa. Cav. Died in 30th year of his age.

Francis K. Herlinger 54th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. C. Died Jan. 14, 1890 Aged \_\_\_\_

Adam Lower 206th Regt. Pa. Vol. Died Jan. 1, 1893. Aged about 82 years

John Shaeffer 206th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. H. Died January 29, 1899: Aged 74 years  
5 months and 3 days

Finley Fetterman: 206th Regt (?) Pa. Vol.

Michael Fetterman 206th Reft. Pa. Vol. Died May 23, 1893 Aged 80 years 6 mo.11da.

Daniel Miller 206th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. H. Died July 21, 1891: Aged 62 yrs. 8mo.24da.

John Coup 6th Regt. Pa. Heav. Artillery Co. L. Died Aug. 22, 1894. Aged 65 yrs.  
7 months and 7 days.

Abraham B. Wike 73th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. D. Transferred to Veteran Reserve Corps.  
Dec. 12th, 1863. Died Sept. 3, 1893 in 72nd year of his age.

John Peddicord

Joshua Stewart 211 Reft. Pa. Vol. Co. K

Peter Steffey 32nd Reft. Pa. Vol. Co. G. Died Nov. 12, 1895 Aged \_\_\_\_

Philip Cramer 206th Regt. Pa. Vol. (?) Died March 27, 1893 in 69th year of his age.

Henry Keller 206th Regt. Pa. Vol. (?)

James Moose 6th Regt. Pa. Heav. Art. Co. L. Died Aug 25, 1901. Aged 66 years.

Killed in Battle and Died away from Home

Andrew Carbaugh 55th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Killed at Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864.

Ephriam Cramer 55th Reft. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Captured at Drewry's Bluff, Va. May 24,  
1864. Died in "Andersonville Prison": Aged about 25 years.

Nicholas Cramer 55th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Killed at Petersburg, Va. June 13, 1864  
Aged about 25 years.



John Keller 55th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Killed in The Battle of The Wilderness.  
Aged about 28 years.

Abednego Keller 55th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Starved in Libby Prison. Aged about 34.

Edmund Roser 55th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Died of disease March 16, 1864. Aged 19 years 10 months 10 day. Burried at New York City.

George H. Shaeffer 11th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. D. Died of Typhoid Fever July 21, 1864.  
Aged 19 years 2 months and 18 days. Burried at City Point, Va.

James Dick 67th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. D.

George W. Dick 12th Regt. Pa. Vet Reserve Corps. Co. H. Died at Alexandria, Va.  
Died January 5, 1863 of wounds received at Battle of Fredericksburg,  
Virginia, December 13, 1862. Aged about 20 years.

Isaac Fornwalt 11th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. D. Daptured at The Battle of Wilderness,  
May 7, 1864. Died in "Libby Prison" Aged about 20 years.

James Dias 11th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. D. Captured at "Battle of The Wilderness  
May 7th, 1864. Died in "Libby Prison"

Daniel Waltermire 55th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Died of wounds received at  
Petersburg, Va. June 10, 1864

William Waltermire Prob. 60th Regt. Pa. Vol. Died in prison, probably "Libby".

Henry Waltermire Prob. 60th Regt. Pa. Vol. Burried in the "Maner" Graveyard;  
Aged 67 years. 4 months, and 18 days.

David Waltermire 55th Regt. Pa. Vol. Co. F. Died in his 30th year. Burried in  
"Brush Valley Cemetery"

Gathered and Reccorded by Rev. J. Milton Snyder

#### LIST OF PASTORS

I shall here give a complete list, as correct as possible of all the  
pastors, and their time of service from the very beginning of this congregation to  
the present time.

1. Rev. John Michael Steck - 1790--1806 4 times a year. 1806-1813 once a year
2. Rev. John Gottfried Lambrecht - 1813--July 1815
3. Rev. William Shultz - 1819-1821 - Supply
4. Rev. \_\_\_ Mochler - 1821 - Supply.
5. Rev. Gabriel Adam Reichart - August 1, 1821--August 1, 1827



6. Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts - July 1, 1827—December 31, 1836
7. Rev. J. Brown — 1837
8. Rev. Jacob Medtart - March 1, 1838 — October 1, 1842
9. Rev. David Adams - November 1, 1842—September 19, 1844
10. Rev. Henry Bishop - November 1, 1844—November 1, 1849
11. Rev. C. J. Deininger - 1850—December 1852
12. Rev. Peter Sahm, DD. - January 1, 1853—February 1, 1853
13. Rev. William S. Emery - April 1, 1853—April 8, 1861
14. Rev. Henry Gathers - April 1861—March 1862 Supply
15. Rev. George M. Settlemyer - March 1, 1862—March 1866
16. Rev. George F. Ehrenfeld - June 1, 1866—April 1, 1868
17. Rev. Simon P. Snyder - December 1, 1869—April 1, 1874
18. Rev. Isaiah B. Crist - November 1, 1874—November 1, 1875
19. Rev. A. W. McCullough - April 1, 1876—April 1, 1878
20. Rev. Benjamin W. Tomlinson—1878 Supply
21. Rev. A. W. McCullough - 1879 Supply
22. Rev. M. O. T. Sahm - Spring 1880—October 1882 Supply
23. Rev. W. E. Crebs - November 1, 1883—November 1, 1884
24. Rev. John W. Reese - April 1, 1885—April 1, 1889
25. Rev. J. W. Shaeffer - June 1, 1889—June 1, 1891
26. Rev. W. G. Slonaker - 1892 Supply
27. Rev. S. V. Dye - August 1, 1893—April 1, 1896
28. Rev. Jacob M. Hankey - 1896—1897 Supply
29. Rev. Samuel A. Shaulis - 1898 Supply
30. Rev. J. Milton Snyder - May 1, 1899—May 1, 1905



### CHURCH BELL

During the month of May 1903 a "Steel Alloy Bell" was placed in the church tower, purchased of Montgomery Ward and Company, Chicago, Illinois. The Bell without the fixtures or mountings weighed 605 Lbs. The cost of the Bell alone was \$ Cost of Fixing Tower and Ladder for Church \$ The cost of cut of church for Church History \$ Total paid out \$ .

The Pastor, Rev. J. Milton Snyder solicited these funds and paid them out. Making his report to the congregation November 22, 1903, handing over a balance of \$2.63 to the Church Council.

### CONCLUSION

My work is now done: it was a laborious task, and yet mixed with pleasure. It would have been my supreme delight to have given a full and exact sketch of this Church from its very beginning until now: it was impossible to do so. The recorded facts were too few; the pastoral charges too many; and the Local traditions too vague. The very best possible has been done, and we must throw the Mantle of Charity over all mistakes, since we can not rectify them. The human pen can give only cold, naked facts; and it must leave untouched and untold the lives that were here spent; the struggles that were here endured; and the victories that were here won. The many pastors and their worshippers have passed into the "Silent Land", Their records and history the ANGEL OF GOD has PERFECTLY KEPT IN THE "BOOK OF LIFE". We would not soon, nor willingly, forget those who "are gone before us"; and it best becomes us to turn over thoughts and our voices towards The God they worshipped and loved. While we look beyond the "blossom-starred" sky above us; we can not forget our life duties here nor the dear old church where we now worship. We dare not forget "The venerable house—Our Fathers built to God"

Their dust endears the Sod"

"Here holy thoughts a light have shed  
From many a radiant face,  
And prayers of tender hope have spread  
A perfume through the place.



"They live with God: Their beds are dust:  
But here Their Children pray.  
And in this fleeting lifetime trust  
To find the "Narrow today!".

February 28, 1901

Delivered to the Congregation on  
Sabbath Morning June 23, 1901.

Rev. J. Milton Snyder preached his Farewell Sermon April 30, 1905 at 2:30PM  
at the close of his 6th year.

#### APPENDIX "A"

##### In Memory of Rev. John Michael Steck

Died at Greensburg, Pennsylvania July 14, 1830. Aged 64 years 9 months 9 days

The Rev. Jno. Michael Steck was born at Germantown, Pennsylvania, October 5, 1765. He studied Theology under Dr. Helmuth and was admitted a member of the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania. In 1784 he took charge at Chambersburg in 1789 he became pastor to the congregations in Bedford and Somerset Counties and in 1792 accepted a call from the Congregations in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania making Greensburg his residence, where he died on July 14, 1830. (Aged 64 years. 9 months. and 9 days)

He was an earnest faithful and successful minister. (See Sprague Annuals of the Amer. Pulpit ix. 148.) From Strong's Cyclopaedia Vol. ix page 1002.

By Rev. J. Milton Snyder  
Strongstown, Indiana Co. Pa.  
Jan. 16th 1901.



## APPENDIX "B"

## In Memory of Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts

Died December 31, 1836. Aged 34 years. 1 month and 11 days.

Rev. Nicholas G. Sharretts was the Eldest Son of Major F. and Catherine Sharretts. He was born near Selins Grove, Union (now Snyder) County, Pennsylvania on the 20th day of November, 1802. His parents having removed to Carlisle, Pa. where Nicholas, at the early age of 15 years publicly professed The Savior and was confirmed a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. From early in life he was exercised with the desire to preach The Gospel. In this he was encouraged by his pastor—The Rev. Benjamin Keller—who prepared him for the Freshman year in Dickenson College, Carlisle, then under the presidency of Rev. Dr. Mason. He graduated in 1825. He pursued the study of Theology under the direction of Rev. J. G. Schmucker, D.D. of York, Pa. Having afterwards visited the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Western Pennsylvania Synod convened at Berlin, Somerset County, Pennsylvania in the fall of 1826. At that time he was appointed as Itinerant Missionary for the North-western part of Pa. After visiting our people in the counties of Clearfield, Venango and Indiana he accepted a call from his first and only pastorate consisting of the congregations of Indiana and of Blairsville.—(also latterly of Brush Valley and Strongstown, by Rev. J. Milton Snyder) He entered on his labors here (Indiana) the first day of July 1827. On the 9th October of the same year (1827) he married Miss Louisa H. Spottswood of Carlisle, Pa.—A most excellent lady, who was to him a noble wife and an efficient co-worker and comforter in all his toils. He was the first settled pastor and English preacher placed over this field. He served this, his people faithfully and zealously, and most acceptably for 8 years and 6 months, when death relieved him of his labors and sufferings on earth, and took him to his reward in Heaven. He died on the last day of the year Dec. 31, 1836. Aged 34 years 1 month and 11 days.



His death was greatly deplored not by his own people only, but by all. Even to this day, after the lapse of fifty years (or more) his name is mentioned with respect and endeared recollections by those who knew him. x x x During a collecting tour to raise funds to free the Church at Indiana — (which was built during the early years of his ministry) — of a debt, he contracted the disease that finally caused his death. But the summons did not take him by surprise. x x x He could say: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand". His death-bed furnished delightful evidence of the power of religion to sustain the soul in the final struggle. Rev. G. A. Reichart, his co-laborer in The Gospel, at Kittanning, Pa. visited him during his last few days, to whom he testified of his hope in the Savior whom he preached.

His remains were interred in front of The Church at Indiana, He had been instrumental in building, amid a large concourse of sorrowing friends, who mourned his early departure.

Rev. C. F. Heyer improved the solemn occasion by a sermon on The Text from 2nd Kings 4:26. Here his remains rested until the death of his wife, December 13, 1879 when they were deposited side by side in "Oakland Cemetery", at Indiana, Pa.

By Rev. A. C. Ehrenfeld

Transcribed by  
Rev. J. Milton Snyder, Dec. 29, 1900  
Strongstown, Pa.



## APPENDIX "C"

In Memory of Rev. Simon P. Snyder

Died December 1, 1895. Aged 74 years and 10 months.

Rev. Simon P. Snyder was born February 3, 1821 in New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County, Ohio. His father was a Lutheran preacher. At the age of 17 Rev. Snyder united with the Lutheran Church, and began to prepare himself by a course at Wittenberg College, to preach the Gospel. He was licensed in 1849 in Canal Dover, Ohio. He began his ministry at Smithville, Ohio; and served at the following places: New Castle, Indiana; Trivoli, Illinois; Camden, Indiana; Blairsville, Pa.; Brushvalley, Pa.; Butler, Indiana; Shipman, Illinois; Walton, Indiana; and Ohio City, Ohio. He spent forty-six years in the service of The Master, preaching the Gospel of Peace. He died in Van Wert, Ohio, Dec. 6, 1895. Aged 74 years and 10 months. Published in The Lutheran World of December 26, 1895 and Transcribed by Rev. J. Milton Snyder, December 29, 1900.

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